

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 SSM-03 /081 W

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R 161102Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8213

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: JEWS MARK 1929 RIOTS IN HEBRON

1. JEWISH SETTLERS AT KIRYAT ARBA, JUST OUTSIDE HEBRON, SPONSORED HEBRON DAY AUG 15 TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF ANTI-JEWISH RIOTS OF 1929, IN WHICH 67 JEWS WERE KILLED. PRINCIPAL OBJECT WAS APPARENTLY TO WIN INCREASED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THEIR SETTLEMENT AND THEIR EFFORTS TO INCREASE JEWISH INFLUENCE IN HEBRON. ARAB HEBRONITES HELD PROTEST TRIKE, BUT ACCORDING TO PRESS NO VIOLENT INCIDENTS OCCURRED DESPITE "HUNDREDS" OF VISITORS TO FORMER JEWISH SITES.

2. DURING MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT HEBRON CEMETERY, KIRYAT ARBA LEADER AND GUSH EMUNIM ACTIVIST, RABBI MOSHE LEVINGER, COMPLAINED THAT WITHOUT LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRY, TOURISM, AND AN IMPROVED HIGHWAY TO KIRYAT ARBA, ADDITIONAL SETTLERS WERE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. HE URGED GOI TO CREATE MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AS KIRYAT ARBA WAS "NOT LIKE A KIBBUTZ." (IN PAST, HOUSING MINISTRY HAS POINTED OUT THAT

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THERE ARE VACANT APARTMENTS IN KIRYAT ARBA WHILE GUSH

EMUNIM IS AGITATING FOR MORE SETTLEMENTS. ABOUT 1,400 NOW
REPORTEDLY RESIDE IN KIRYAT ARBA.)

3. HEBRON'S MAYOR HAD SENT CABLES TO DEFMIN PERES AND
MILGOV PROTESTING PLANS FOR CEREMONY AS PROVOCATION BY
JEWISH EXTREMISTS AND A HINDRANCE TO PROGRESS TOWARD JUST
PEACE. WHILE PERMITTING EVENT TO TAKE PLACE, MILGOV
PLACED SOME LIMITATIONS NO NUMBERS OF JEWISH VEHICLES PER-
MITTED IN CENTER OF HEBRON AND RECOMMENDED VISITS TO TOMBS
OF THE PATRIARCHS (IBRAHIMI MOSQUE) ON FOOT AND IN SMALL
GROUPS. SECURITY FORCES WERE ALSO OUT IN FORCE.

4. COMMENT: EVENTS SUCH AS THIS FURTHER CONVINCE ARABS THAT
ISRAELIS DO NOT PLAN TO RELINQUISH WEST BANK AND PLAN GRADUALLY
TO EXPAND THEIR PRESENCE IN AREAS SUCH AS HEBRON. THEY
WILL NOT BE REASSURED BY STATEMENT OF NRP WELFARE MINISTER
ZEVULUN HAMMER AT THE HEBRON CEREMONY. HE IS QUOTED
IN JERUSALEM POST AS DECLARING THAT "WE CAME TO PROMISE THAT
A BIG CITY WILL RISE HERE AND EXIST FOREVER."
NEWLIN

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